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HOUSE MEMORIAL 76

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

Patricia Roybal Caballero

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION OF THE ENERGY,
MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO POST CERTAIN
INFORMATION RELATING TO THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY ON THE
DIVISION'S WEB SITE.

WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry is critical to the
health of New Mexico's economy; and

WHEREAS, with over seven hundred million barrels, New
Mexico ranks fifth in the United States in oil reserves; and

WHEREAS, each year, the state receives a substantial
amount of revenue from taxes and royalties from businesses
associated with the oil and gas industry; and

WHEREAS, the strength of the oil and gas industry
correlates directly to funding for the state's educational
systems, roads and public facilities and to the state of the

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1 New Mexico economy; and

2 WHEREAS, media reports have heightened public concern
3 about the potential negative impact of oil and gas drilling on
4 the environment and public health, particularly in the context
5 of contaminated ground water; and

6 WHEREAS, it is important to address that concern; and

7 WHEREAS, transparency and accurate information are
8 critical to the functioning of the political system;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
10 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the oil
11 conservation division of the energy, minerals and natural
12 resources department be requested to conspicuously post the
13 following information on the division's web site for each of
14 the years 2008 through 2013 and each year thereafter:

15 A. the number of stripper, active, temporary and
16 inactive oil and gas wells;

17 B. the number of oil conservation division oil and
18 gas well inspectors;

19 C. violations of the Oil and Gas Act, presented as
20 follows:

21 (1) a general categorization of violations and
22 an indication of those that threaten or contaminate ground
23 water;

24 (2) in each category, the number of violations
25 and the amount in fines collected;

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1 (3) in each category, a list of the oil and
2 gas facilities fined for having committed a violation, the
3 county in which the violation occurred, the violation date, the
4 date that compliance was achieved and an indication of whether
5 the violation was filed in court or settled in court; and

6 (4) the specific actions of the oil
7 conservation division in response to each violation that
8 threatened or contaminated ground water;

9 D. the cash balance in the oil and gas reclamation
10 fund at the beginning of each fiscal year; and

11 E. the amount, purpose and type of expenditures
12 from the oil and gas reclamation fund; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, by November 1, 2014, the oil
14 conservation division be requested to present this information
15 for years 2008 through 2013, with recommendations that could
16 help the oil conservation division's efforts to address public
17 concerns about the impact of drilling on ground water, to the
18 governor and to the three legislative interim committees that
19 deal with natural resources, hazardous materials and legal
20 issues; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the oil conservation division of the energy,
23 minerals and natural resources department, the governor, the
24 president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker of the
25 house of representatives.

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